

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). An image creating apparatus for creating computer graphics of an animation from text, comprising:

an inputter that inputs various information including a text string;

a displayer that displays various information;

a material data storage that stores, as material data, character data, action data and set data for creating the computer graphics;

a correspondence table storage that stores a text string/material correspondence table that associates the material data with text strings that show material names for the material data;

a searcher that, when a [[new]] text string that partially designates a feature of the material data is input from the inputter, newly searches for material data corresponding to the input feature, using ~~an outer~~ a database located outside the image creating apparatus that stores the material data, and a hierarchical structural description that describes the feature of the material data in a hierarchical structure;

a registrationer that stores the newly searched material data in the material data storage and registers a correspondence of the newly searched material data and a material name of the newly searched material data in the text string/material correspondence table; and

a text string/CG conversion processor that, when a text string that designates a material name is input by the inputter, refers to the text string/material correspondence table, searches for a material name with which the input text string partially matches, acquires material data corresponding to the searched material name, and creates the computer graphics of the animation using the acquired material data.

2 (previously presented). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the feature of the material data is input, the searcher refers to the hierarchical structural description, searches for a feature of a lower hierarchy than the input feature, and searches for material data corresponding to the searched feature of the lower hierarchy.

3 (previously presented). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the feature of the material data is input, the searcher refers to the hierarchical structural description, searches for a feature of a higher hierarchy than the input feature, and searches for material data corresponding to the searched feature of the higher hierarchy.

4 (previously presented). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display controller that displays a list of the feature of the material data in the displayer, and wherein, when a feature of the material data is selected from the list, the searcher searches for material data corresponding to the selected feature.

5 (previously presented). The image creating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein, when a feature of the material data is selected from the list, the display controller displays a list of thumbnails of material data corresponding to the selected feature.

6 (previously presented). The image creating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the display controller displays a predetermined number of features on the displayer.

7 (previously presented). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the feature of the material data is defined by an attribute and a value of the attribute.

8 (previously presented). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
the hierarchical structural description describes the feature related to the material data stored on a network;

the searcher searches for the material data stored on the network; and

the registration registers the searched material data stored on the network.

9 (canceled).

10 (previously presented). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:
the material name is further associated with an expression adjective which indicates an expression;

the text string/CG conversion processor, when a text string that designates the expression adjective is input, searches for an expression adjective with which the input text string partially matches; and

the displayer displays the searched expression adjective.

11 (previously presented). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the material name is further associated with an expression adverb which indicates an expression;

the text string/CG conversion processor, when a text string that designates the expression adverb is input, searches for an expression adverb with which the input text string partially matches; and

the displayer displays the searched expression adverb.

12 (previously presented). The image creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the material data comprises at least one of action data, character data and set data;

the material name includes an action name, a character name and a set name corresponding to the action data, the character data and the set data, respectively; and

the text string/material correspondence table comprises a text string/action correspondence table, a text string/character correspondence table and a text string/set correspondence table corresponding to the action data, the character data and the set data, respectively.

13 (previously presented). The image creating apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

the action name is associated with the character data; and

the text string/CG conversion processor, when the character data is selected as the material data, searches for an action name corresponding to the selected character data.

14 (previously presented). The image creating apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

the action data comprises an object; and

the text string/CG conversion processor, when a set name to indicate a possible object which the action data can comprise is input, acquires set data corresponding to the input set name and creates the computer graphics using the acquired set data.

15 (previously presented). The image creating apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the text string/CG conversion processor, when a text string that designates a set name to indicate a possible object which the action name can comprise is input, refers to the text string/set correspondence table and searches for a set name with which the input text partially matches.

16 (currently amended). An image creating method performed by an image creating apparatus for creating computer graphics of an animation from text, the method comprising:

storing, as material data, character data, action data and set data for creating the computer graphics by a first storage of the image creating apparatus;

storing a text string/material correspondence table that associates the material data with text strings that show material names for the material data by a second storage of the image creating apparatus;

newly searching, when a [[new]] text string that partially designates a feature of the material data is input, for material data corresponding to the input feature using ~~an outer~~ a database located outside the image creating apparatus that stores the material data, and a hierarchical structural description that describes the feature of the material data in a hierarchical structure, by a searcher of the image creating apparatus;

storing the newly searched material data in the first storage, and registering a correspondence of the newly searched material data and a material name of the newly searched material data in the text string/material correspondence table stored by the second storage, by a registrationner of the image creating apparatus; and

referring to the text string/material correspondence table when a text string that designates a material name is input, searching for a material name with which the input text string partially matches, acquiring material data corresponding to the searched material name, and creating the computer graphics of the animation using the acquired material data, by a processor of the image creating apparatus.